

Dupont Powder Mill  
Hagley, New Castle County, Delaware •

HABS No. Del-2  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Delaware

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Weston H. Blake, District Officer  
1301 Market Street, Wilmington, Del.

DUPONT POWDER MILL  
Hagley - New Castle County - Delaware.

Owner: Lamot Dupont Copeland  
Wilmington, Delaware.

Date of Erection: 1822. Oldest Dupont Mill in existence. The original mill was erected in 1802 the year the company was founded, but has since been destroyed.

Architect: Not known. These early mills were probably patterned after the French Powder Mills in which E. I. Dupont de Nemours learned the powder making business.

Builder: E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company

This mill as well as all the early Dupont Mills were built under the personal supervision of Eleuthere Irenee Dupont de Nemours, the founder of the Dupont Company. These mills of which there are about twenty remaining are generally grouped in pairs, tho they were not necessarily built at the same time, as the companion mill to the subject of this survey was built in 1824.

Present Condition: Poor. Only the exterior walls on three sides remain. The roof and side toward the Brandywine Creek were of light flimsy construction. This was done, so that in the event of an explosion there would be no great property damage, the effect being almost that of firing a colossal mortar in the direction where there was the least chance of doing harm.

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Stone construction except for the roof and side toward the Brandywine Creek which were of light frame construction. The stone walls are approximately three feet thick and are reinforced with heavy buttresses on the opposite side from the frame wall.

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Other Existing Records: A History - B. G. Dupont. The History of the E. I. Dupont de Nemours Powder Company. Published by Business American Copy-righted 1912 by the Banker and Investor Magazine Publishing Company.

Additional Data: There is very little historical data available concerning these mills.

Several old employees of the Dupont Company have been interviewed by Mr. Lamont Dupont Copeland, the present owner of the mills for information regarding their equipment and operation.

It is believed that this mill is the first in which the process of grinding was used in the manufacture of powder. In the earlier mills the powder was pounded.

What little remains of the original equipment would indicate that it was operated by a water wheel placed between each pair of mills. Inside the mill, revolving in a trough on the floor were two cast iron grinding wheels which ground out the powder in the trough. These were operated by a vertical shaft which meshed with the horizontal shaft connecting to the water wheel. With the exception of the wheels all the equipment was wood.

*Newton H. Blake*  
District Officer.

Addendum to  
Dupont Powder Mill  
On the Brandywine River within  
Hagley Museum  
Greenville Vicinity  
Newcastle County  
Delaware

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